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**Department of Executive Administration
Director's Rule No. R-6.310.500A relating to
Taxicab License Issuance – Determination of
Need.**

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By Emilia M. Sanchez

Date	Recommendation	Vote


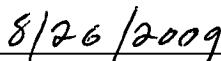
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City of Seattle
Department of Executive Administration

Fred Podesta, Director, Department of Executive Administration

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Applicant: City of Seattle Department of Executive Administration	Page: 1 of 3	Supersedes: New
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Director's Rule: R-6.310.500A Taxicab License Issuance – Determination of Need	Code and Section Reference: SMC 6.310.500	
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Rule R-6.310.500A

Taxicab License Issuance – Determination of Need.

Seattle Municipal Code subsection 6.310.500A reads as follows:

A. The total number of taxicab licenses in effect at any one (1) time shall not exceed eight-hundred and fifty (850). The number of taxicab licenses shall be set by the Director at such times and in such manner as necessary to meet the demand for efficient and economical taxicab service within the city limits and to support a competitive, safe, fair and viable business environment for the taxicab industry; however, no more than 35 licenses can be issued within a calendar year. The Director shall adopt by rule the procedure for determining when and how many new taxicab licenses will be issued. In determining the total number of licenses issued, the Director shall consider factors such as average service response times, total number of taxi rides, total paid trips per taxicab, and average operating hours per taxicab, and may consider any other factors that may affect the supply and demand for taxi service within the city limits. The Director shall adopt by rule any vehicle and safety standards required for the issuance of new licenses, including but not limited to vehicle size, fuel efficiency, and emissions standards.

C. The Director may, at the Director's discretion, issue wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses to special service vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons defined in KCC 6.64.010 or to handicapped persons as defined in SMC Section 6.310.110. These licenses shall be non-transferable for a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance and shall not be included in calculating the maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable pursuant to subsection A. The Director may issue temporary and nontransferable wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses to individual for-hire drivers selected by King County for a demonstration project to determine the economic feasibility of the long term issuance of such licenses.

The following rule provides guidance for implementing this provision as authorized by the Seattle Municipal Code.

1. **Determination of Whether to Issue New Taxicab Licenses.** To determine whether additional taxicab licenses are needed to provide efficient and economical taxicab services to the public, the Director shall, at least every two (2) years and not later than April 1, review trends in the most recent taxicab industry operating statistics available including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (1) taximeter statistics – annual average and total revenue trips per taxicab;
 - (2) computer dispatch records – monthly average taxicab service response times by zone and citywide;
 - (3) computer dispatch records – monthly average operating hours per taxicab driver and per taxicab vehicle, annual operating hours per taxicab driver and per taxicab vehicle.
2. **Determination of the Number of New Taxicab Licenses to Issue.** The number of new taxicab licenses to be issued, for transportation of ambulatory passengers or passengers in wheelchairs and other mobility devices, shall be determined by considering the following factors reflecting the demand for taxicab services:
 - (1) **Taxicabs for ambulatory passengers.** The principal factor to be considered by the Director in determining the number of new taxicab licenses to issue for the transportation of ambulatory passengers shall be the percentage growth in citywide total revenue trips since the previous license issuance. For the initial issuance of new taxicab licenses,

under this rule, the citywide total revenue trips for the most recent 12-month period for which these statistics are available shall be compared with the citywide total revenue trips for 2005. In no case may the number of new taxicab licenses for the transportation of ambulatory passengers exceed 35 in any calendar year nor may the total number of new and existing taxicab licenses for the transportation of ambulatory passengers exceed 850.

- (2) **Taxicabs for passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices.** The principal factor to be considered by the Director in determining the number of new taxicab licenses to issue for the transportation of passengers in wheelchairs and other mobility devices shall be the percentage growth in citywide average taxicab service response times since the previous license issuance. For the initial issuance of new taxicab licenses, under this rule, for the transportation of passengers in wheelchairs and other mobility devices, the citywide average taxicab service response times for the most recent 12-month period for which these statistics are available shall be compared with the citywide average taxicab service response times for 2005. These taxicab licenses, for specially equipped vehicles for passengers in wheelchairs and other mobility devices shall be known as wheelchair accessible taxicab (WAT) licenses. There shall be no annual or total maximum number restriction on the number of WAT licenses issued. However, consideration shall be given to the fact that the majority of revenue trips performed by WAT will be to transport ambulatory passengers. The goal is to achieve an equivalent average service response time for wheelchair and ambulatory passengers after allowing an average of 10 minutes for loading and securing wheelchair passengers.
3. **Consideration of Other Factors Reflecting Demand for Taxicab Services.** The Director may also give consideration to other factors that, in the opinion of the Director, reflect increased demand for taxicab services. Some of these factors may include: the rate of population growth in Seattle and vicinity; growth in measures of tourism such as arrivals at Sea-Tac Airport, hotel occupancy rates or increases in cruise ship sailings; or significant changes to public transportation systems that may require increased availability of taxicab service to carry passengers to their final destinations.

Effective Date: August 26, 2009